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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

KURUMOCH ROCKET ENGINE TEST FACILITY, USSR

DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD



CIA

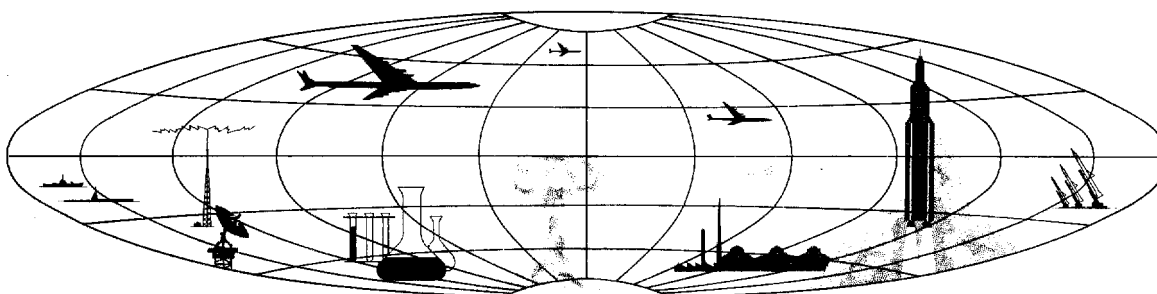


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KURUMOCH ROCKET ENGINE TEST FACILITY, USSR

SUMMARY 25X1D 25X1D

25X1D The Kurumoch Rocket Engine Test Facility, USSR, consisting of a vertical test stand and its support structures, was under construction when first seen on [] photography. The facility has since been observed on [] photography. The test stand became operational prior to photography of

[] the latest coverage occurred in [] when the support facilities seen in [] were complete. In addition to these completed structures, a probable second vertical test stand is under construction at the site, and other new facilities have been added or are under construction.

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INTRODUCTION

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The Kurumoch Rocket Engine Test Facility, USSR, [] is located at 53-31N 49-49E, 8 nautical miles (nm) west-northwest of Kurumoch and 24 nm north-northwest of Kuybyshev (Figure 1). This facility was first seen on [] photography 1/ and has been observed since then on [] 2/ 3/ and [] 4/ [] photography. No photographic coverage of the test facility has been obtained since []. A comparison of [] photography of this site can be found in Figure 2.

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New structures added to this facility between [] and the final forms of components completed during this period are described and analyzed in the following section. The significance of structural details observed on buildings under construction in [] is now clarified by the completed forms of these structures seen on [] photography.

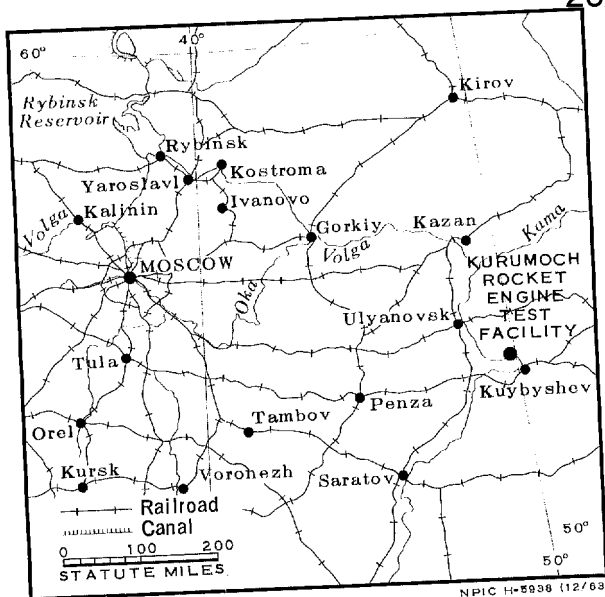


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF KURUMOCH ROCKET ENGINE TEST FACILITY, USSR.

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DESCRIPTION

The Kurumoch Rocket Engine Test Facility (Figure 3) consists of a completed vertical test stand with adjoining operational support buildings, a probable second vertical test stand under construction with adjoining operational support buildings, 3 towers which may be possible test stands under construction, 14 storage tanks, and

other support facilities. The facility is fenced and is rail and road served. Dimensions of major structures at the installation are given in the inset, Figure 3.

The completed vertical test stand (item 1, Figure 3) was under construction when first seen on [] photography and appeared to

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FIGURE 2. KURUMOCH ROCKET ENGINE TEST FACILITY, USSR, [REDACTED]

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be complete on [] photography. []

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The stand is built in a ravine southeast of the center of the site.

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The superstructure of the test stand is approximately 85 by at least 80 feet, while the base structure is [] feet; the superstructure thus overhangs the base structure by at least 15 feet, probably toward the blast pit. The stand rises at least 60 feet above an approach ramp, giving the building an overall height of at least 140 feet above the bottom of the pit. The superstructure is enclosed, and two structural members intersect at the center of the roof. The base structure, under construction when observed in [] was divided into three north-south bays by interior walls or columns, with the north side of the base enclosed. The protruding tops of these dividers and the outer walls measured approximately [] while their northern ends appeared to be at least []

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The approach ramp extends from the test stand to the edges of the excavation and is in line with the abutment structure and bridge piers seen in []. A road entering the pit from the northeast serves the base of the stand.

Associated with the completed test stand are a control building or bunker and six operational support buildings (Figure 3). The control bunker (item 3) is built in the side of the excavation approximately 150 feet west-southwest of the test stand; only the prepared site was visible in []. An access road leads to the bunker from the operational support area, and a bridge or flying ramp leads to the bottom of the pit.

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The six operational support buildings are approximately 575 feet north of the test stand. All six buildings appear complete; four of these (items 4, 5, 6, and 15) were under construction in [], and two smaller ones (items 16 and 17)

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were added after []. Item 4, a fabrication or assembly building, is directly north of the test stand. It consists of two north-south bays, 200 by 70 feet and 200 by 60 feet, and is at least 30 feet high; the wider bay is directly in line with the approach ramp. Item 5, the largest of the six buildings, is approximately 60 feet high. This building was in an early stage of construction in [] and the interior then appeared to contain three longitudinal banks of inside walls separated by two corridors. The center bank was divided into enclosed cells, and the two outer banks contained small bays open to the corridors. Adjoining this building is a probable semiburied vertical storage tank approximately 30 feet in diameter. Item 5 has been described as a possible cold flow building. 5/6/ Item 15 was compartmented when seen in []; one section contained a rounded object, possibly a horizontal tank, approximately 40 feet long by 15 feet in diameter. Item 6, the smallest of the four older buildings, is also compartmented.

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The probable vertical test stand under construction (item 2) is located in an excavation at the edge of a ravine north of the center of the site. The site is outside the area of the test facility which was enclosed by fence in []; the former fence, however, was partially removed and a larger area enclosed between photographic missions of []. The probable test stand was first seen on photography of [] and it is still in the early stages of construction on [] photography. A road entering the ravine from the southwest provides access to the base of the structure, which is approximately 60 by 60 feet in size. A raised section at the edge of the excavation is possibly an abutment.

Two probable operational support buildings (items 23 and 24) are located about 500 feet south of the new probable test stand. Item 24 is directly in line with the possible abutment and the

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NPIC/R-309/63

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probable test stand; it is at least 30 feet high, approximately 195 feet long, and at least 95 and more likely 130 feet wide. The alignment, location, and dimensions of this structure indicate that it is probably a fabrication-type building similar to item 4. East of items 23 and 24 are two buildings (items 25 and 27) and two roughly square objects which may be associated with operational support.

Three tall structures or towers (items 19, 20, and 21) northeast of the completed test stand and on the edge of the same ravine are possibly smaller test stands; each measures approxi-

mately 60 by 60 feet. Two of the towers were first seen on [] photography, and the third was first observed on photography of []

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Other major changes at the rocket engine test facility include the completion of the rail spur extension past the operational areas, extension of the perimeter fence to enclose roughly twice the area previously enclosed, completion of the vertical storage tanks and service buildings observed under construction in [], and the erection of additional service buildings.

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REFERENCES



ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0165-17A, 3d ed, Jan 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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2. NPIC. B-47/61, Propulsion Test Complex, Kurumoch, USSR: (TOP SECRET)
4. NPIC. R-99/63, Kurumoch Rocket Engine Test Facility: Original Test Stand, Kurumoch, USSR, Jun 63 (TOP SECRET)
5. USAF. ATIS-T-60-5, Kurumoch Rocket Engine Facility, 15 Sep 60 (TOP SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. ORR/C-RR3-80,463

NPIC PROJECT

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